

## COORDINATING OUR EFFORTS

### BRINGING VACCINATIONS TO HIGH RISK GROUPS IS NO SMALL TASK

In 2009, Bloomington Public Health (BPH) vaccinated more than 5,500 people for the H1N1 flu virus. To administer the vaccine effectively to priority groups, BPH worked closely with Bloomington School District to bring clinics to public schools in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.

The City began its partnership with the district on issues related to mass vaccination dispensing in 2006 when the school district agreed to allow the use of their facilities as large scale vaccination sites.

Executive Director of Community Relations and Emergency Management Coordinator for Bloomington Public Schools Rick Kaufman worked closely with

BPH on everything from H1N1 response plans and emergency management to coordinating clinic locations.

"In the beginning, it was very challenging not having enough vaccinations or being able to receive them in a timely fashion, but we were able to adjust and find the most practical and efficient opportunities for hosting clinics," Kaufman said. "The most rewarding aspect was our collaboration as two organizations with the same goal of educating and assisting our community."

**Public Health Administrator Karen Zeleznak** and **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Brodsky** consider the school district to be an invaluable community partner.

According to Brodsky, there was a large amount of prep time that went into coordinating each clinic to ensure that they ran as smoothly as possible for all parties involved.

"Once the clinic site was selected, we did a walk-through of the building with school staff and designed a layout for the flow of the clinic," Brodsky said. "Supplies were ordered and packed. We identified our staffing needs and scheduled accordingly."

*"The school district was extremely helpful, as well as flexible, especially considering we had to modify our plans several times."*

*Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lisa Brodsky, right*



## POOLING OUR RESOURCES

### EMPLOYEES' DIVERSE SKILLS RESULT IN SOME VERY SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

When Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler needed an extra snowplow operator after back-to-back snowstorms hit the city this past winter, he didn't have to look any further than Dwan Golf Club.

**Bloomington Maintenance Technician Jason Raabe** works full-

time at Dwan doing everything from mowing and landscaping to repairing equipment. When Public Works needs him, he also operates a snowplow.

"Public Works will usually call me after it snows and ask me to come over," Raabe said. "Sometimes I'll go in at three or four in the morning."

Raabe, who has worked for the City for five years, said that operating a snowplow is a nice change of pace from his regular duties.

Resident Gordon Lee noticed Raabe's

snowplowing skills this past winter when Raabe plowed his street.

"I've lived on this circle for 48 years and I was extremely impressed by the job this young man did," Lee said. "He was able to plow our circle quickly and yet left very little snow at the end of our driveway."

Eiler said that providing 24-hour coverage during a major snow event is always a team effort.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child; well, it takes a City to plow through a major snowstorm and employees from nearly all City departments help."



### TAKE A LOAD OFF

When Street Maintenance needed a quick way to take sanders off snowplow trucks to free them up for maintenance tasks, **Equipment Operator Paul Fink** had an idea. He created a device to lift sanders off trucks quickly and safely. Fink built not one, but six sander removers. City trucks now work more efficiently, saving \$4,800 a year.



*"We've lived in Bloomington since 1961, so we have a long history of observing snowplow operators. The service just keeps getting better. It is really appreciated."*

*Gordon Lee, resident, right*

## TRAINING MATTERS

### FIRE SAFETY IMPORTANT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

**Laura McCarthy** has been a volunteer firefighter in Bloomington for more than 20 years. She also works for the City as a **Fire Inspector**. McCarthy conducts dozens of fire safety trainings a year for local businesses and schools. Most recently McCarthy provided safety training to Richie Engineering, a manufacturer of HVAC and automotive AC products in Bloomington.

Human Resources Manager for Richie Engineering Sherry Crocco called the City looking for someone who was knowledgeable about fire safety to deliver an easy-to-understand and engaging presentation to employees.

"Working with Laura was great," Crocco said. "She showed a video, demonstrated how to use a fire extinguisher, discussed fire safety tips and made herself available to answer any questions our employees had. We received a fantastic response from our employees after the training."

In addition to providing fire safety training, Bloomington Fire Prevention conducts regular inspections of commercial, industrial and multi-family residential structures to ensure continued compliance with Minnesota fire and building codes. The Division also investigates Bloomington fires

to determine cause and origin, and works with the Police to investigate arson.

*"I have the best of both worlds working full time and as a volunteer for the*

*City. I get to help people in a variety of ways because I see things from the perspective of a fire inspector and a firefighter."*

*Fire Inspector and Deputy Fire Chief Laura McCarthy*



**Shannon** ~ Environmental Health Program Coordinator ~ 13 years



*"Treating every resident as if they sign my paycheck, because they do."*

*"Being committed to improving quality of life for citizens."*

**Chuck** ~ Police Sergeant ~ 15 years

